Concessions given to Jute Industry

306. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what additional concessions were offered to the jute industry apart from the package programme for modernisation of the industry as announced by the Prime Minister in September, 1986;

(b) how much of these concessions were availed of by the industry; and

(c) what are the results obtained from those concessions, millwise details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Apart from the Prime Minister's package of measures for development of jute industry as announced in September, 1986, no further measures/concessions have been granted to jute industry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loan Mela in Tripura

307. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for organising a loan mela in Tripura just on the eve of State elections;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government is against such loan melas being organised prior to the elections; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for vhich, the State Government is being concerned to provide facilities for organising the loan mela?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (c) The public sector banks organise credit camps in various parts of the country as a part of the overall measure undertaken by them to bring about accelerated credit assistance to weaker sections of Society. In these credit camps members of weaker sections of society, sponsored by State authorities also are given loans.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Cash Compensatory support for Jute Industry

308. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are chalking out a package programme, including a higher cash compensatory support to help the jute industry;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Minister of State for Commerce regarding siphoning off of over Rs. 500 crores by the jute industry to other areas for building other empires; and

(c) if so, whether in view of the above, his Ministry proposes to revise its decision as mentioned in part (a) above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Cotton

309. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed export of over

15 lakh tonnes of cotton during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what was the original target for export;

(c) whether the actual export exceeded the target; if so, to what extent; and

(d) whether this has adversely affected the price of cotton in the country which has shown an upward trend?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the long term export policy on cotton, 5 lakh bales of long/extra long staple cotton, 50,000 August). Under this policy, 3.00 lakh bales of Bengal deshi and 50,000 bales of Digvijay varieties are to be exported every year for a period of 3 years on a continuous basis beginning from the cotton year 1986-87 (September-August). Under this poicy, 3.00 lakh bales of long staple variety and 44,648 bales of Bengal deshi (of 1986-87 crop) were exported during 1986-87 cotton year.

(d) No, Sir.

Visit of FICCI Delegation Abroad

310. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation led by the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry recently visited the United Kingdom and other countries to explore the possibilities of expanding and strengthening economic ties with these countries; and

(b) whether FICCI has submitted any report to Government in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) A 12-member FICCI delegation led by its President visited London and Manchester in UK in October (5—9) 1987.

(b) A report has been received from FICCI, according to which the delegation had an interaction with their counterparts in UK for promotion of two-way trade, industrial collaboration and investment by British entrepreneurs as well as non-resident Indians. The Indian delegation particularly projected their interest in export of semi-finished products from India for assembly in UK and also software. They also discussed, *inter alia*, possibilities of collaboration in marketing, packaging, designing and advertising.

Concessional Loan from Japan

311. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to help ease the strain on India's balance of payments position due to widespread drought Japan has extended a concessional loan of 29.5 billion yen (Rs. 270 crores); and

(b) if so, the mnaer in which this concessional loan is to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The Japanese Government have indicated that they will be willing to extend a loan of Yen 29.5 billion (about Rs. 270 crores) with a view to assisting India in its drought relief and economic reconstruction.

(b) The loan will be made available to cover payments for the import of such commodities as may be agreed